

REMARKS

Priority

In reply to the checked box on page 1 of the Office Action indicating that no priority document has been received for this application, attached please find a certified copy of the priority document, British Application No. GB 0307557.9, filed April 1, 2003, from which the above-referenced patent application claims priority. Please incorporate this certified priority document into the official record for this matter.

Amendments to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings in the Office Action of October 5, 2005, stating that they failed to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "26" and "32" were both used to designate the pivot point for the arm. Applicants have amended Figure 4, (see attached Replacement Sheet) to replace reference number "26" with the correct reference number "32" for the pivot point for arm 16. Support for this amendment is found in the specification, p. 5, line 12 (a pivot point 32) and lines 21-22 ("the brake drum 26."). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings now comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4). Acceptance of the replacement sheet with amended Figure 4 and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is therefore requested.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-13 are amended, and new claims 14-18 are added. Applicants amended claims 1 and 12 to add the limitation for the braking means "wherein the braking means comprises a brake drum having an *inside* surface and a brake shoe, and wherein the braking means engages the *inside* surface of the brake drum to inhibit rotational motion of the reel except when a tension force is applied to the hose." (Emphases added). Support for these amendments is found in the application on p. 5, lines 5-25, in original claim 12, and in Figures 3 and 4.

Applicants also amended claims 2-11 and 13 to replace the capitalized "Claim" with a non-capitalized "claim." Finally, claim 4 was amended to delete a duplicate "at" between the words "mounted" and "least."

New claims 14 – 15 add a limitation that the arm of the hose dispenser or hose dispensing apparatus has a pivot point inside the brake drum. Support for this amendment is found in the application on p. 5, lines 5 – 25, and in Figures 3 and 4 .

New claims 16-18 add a protective hood limitation to the hose dispenser (claim 16) or the hose dispensing apparatus (17-18). New claims 15 and 17 recite a protective hood on a free end of the hose, and more particularly, new claim 18 recites a protective hood that is a frusto-conical protective hood. Support for new claims 16-18 is found in the application on p. 4, lines 19-30, in original claim 10, and Figures 1, 2 and 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1-13, and new claims 14-18, do not represent addition of new matter.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

As amended, claims 1 and 12 recite a braking means that "provides a brake for the reel and comprises a brake drum having an inside surface, and a brake shoe, wherein the brake shoe contacts the inside surface of the brake drum when the hose is not under tension, thus engaging the braking means." McCoy discloses a braking means that includes a disk/drum 28 and a brake lever 30 that extends *above (i.e. exterior to)* the brake drum 28 having an arched brake shoe 32, the brake lever being connected to a spring 33. As the hose/wire is pulled from the reel, the spring 33 is stretched and the brake shoe 32 disengages from the exterior of the brake drum 28. When the hose/wire is not being pulled from the reel, the spring recoils and the braking force is applied to the exterior of the brake drum 28 (see McCoy, p. 1, col. 2, line 45 through p. 3, col. 1, line 35). Nothing in McCoy suggests modifying the McCoy braking means to have the brake shoe engage an inside surface of the brake drum. In fact, no inside surface of the brake drum is discussed, disclosed, or shown in any of the Figures in McCoy. Similarly, the pivot point for the arm/lever 30 in McCoy is outside the brake drum 28, and no suggestion for placing a pivot point for the arm/lever inside the brake drum is discussed, disclosed, or shown in any of the Figures in McCoy. Claims 14 and 15 require the pivot point to be inside the brake drum.

In addition, with respect to new claims 16-18, McCoy does not disclose or suggest a protective hood for the free end of the hose, particularly a frusto-conical protective hood. Lowery et al. is simply a cart for holding reels having spools of wire disposed therein. There is


no braking means disclosed at all. Thus, the combination of McCoy with Lowery does not provide suggestion or motivation to modify the braking means of McCoy to arrive at the presently claimed invention having a brake disc that contacts the inside surface of the brake drum in the absence of tension.

Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of McCoy and Lowery cannot render the invention obvious because the combination does not teach all the elements of claims 1-18, and does not suggest modifying the braking means of McCoy to a hose dispenser, or hose dispensing apparatus having the presently claimed elements for the braking means.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above-arguments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim objections and obviousness rejections under 3 USC § 103(a), and submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and a notice of allowance are therefore requested.

Applicants believe that a three-month extension is required, and therefore submit a check in the amount of \$1020 to cover the three-month extension fee. However, in the event that additional fees are due for the timely consideration of this application, Applicants request that any necessary fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4972.


Barbara J. Carter
Registration No. 52,703
Attorney for Applicants

April 5, 2006

BROMBERG & SUNSTEIN, LLP
125 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110-1618
Tel: (617) 443-9292
Fax: (617) 443-0004

01050/00127 483631.1

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace Figure 4 with amended Figure 4, as shown on the attached Replacement Sheet.